City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	City Council
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	April 21, 2008
Meeting Date:	April 28, 2008
Subject:	Proposed No Parking, Tow Away Zone on St. Mary's Road east of Santa Maria Way

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Introduction Discussion

The Circulation Commission considered a request from residents on Santa Maria Way to address sight distance for southbound vehicles exiting Santa Maria Way at St. Mary's Road, staff report and minutes attached. In order to emphasize the no parking zone, the Commission recommended a no parking, tow away zone at the subject location. Police Chief Hubbard objected to the towing designation and requested the Commission reconsider its recommendation, but the Commission declined. Although establishing a No Parking Tow Away zone is an unusual first response to such a request and Engineering Services staff would prefer a basic No Parking zone due to concerns associated with establishing this precedent, the Commission reconfirmed its recommendation of the No Parking Tow Away zone. Copies of the original request, minutes from that meeting, the Police Chief's memo and subsequent staff report and minutes are attached. The City received several pieces of correspondence on this matter most of which favors taking some form of action to improve the sight distance.

Fiscal Impact

Minimal. The cost of installing signage can be accommodated within the existing Streets Maintenance budget.

Recommendation

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2008-017 establishing a No Parking Tow Away zone on the north side of St. Mary's Road from the east side of Santa Maria Way extending eastward to the driveway serving 3380 St. Mary's Road.

Attachments

1. Resolution 2008-017
2. January 15, 2008 Circulation Commission staff report
3. January 22, 2008 Circulation Commission minutes
4. March 5, 2008 memo from Chief Hubbard
5. April 1, 2008 Circulation Commission staff report
6. April 7, 2008 Circulation Commission minutes
7. Correspondence

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE

In the matter of:

Designating a No Parking, Tow Away Zone)
On the North Side of St. Mary's Road)
From the East Side of Santa Maria Way)
Extending Eastward to Driveway Serving)
3380 St. Mary's Road) Resolution No. 2008–017

WHEREAS, staff and the Circulation Commission reviewed the sight distance, parking and circulation issues in the area around St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way;

WHEREAS, site conditions create a situation of limited sight distance for drivers exiting Santa Maria Way when vehicles are parked on the road shoulder on the north side of St. Mary's Road;

WHEREAS, the Circulation Commission wants to improve the sight distance and recommends establishing a No Parking Tow Away zone on the north side of St. Mary's Road from Santa Maria Way extending eastward to the driveway serving 3380 St. Mary's Road; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the sight distance, parking and circulation issues in the area near the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Lafayette, California RESOLVES to designate the north side of St. Mary's Road from the east side of Santa Maria Way extending eastward to the driveway serving 3380 St. Mary's Road as a No Parking, Tow Away zone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above parking restriction become effective once posted or otherwise designated and then the Police Services Department is directed to enforce these new parking regulations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Lafayette at a regular meeting of said Council on April 28, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

APPROVED: ATTEST:

MAYOR Mike Anderson CITY CLERK Joanne Robbins

City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	Circulation Commission
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	January 15, 2008
Meeting Date:	January 22, 2008
Subject:	Request to Address Sight Distance at St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way

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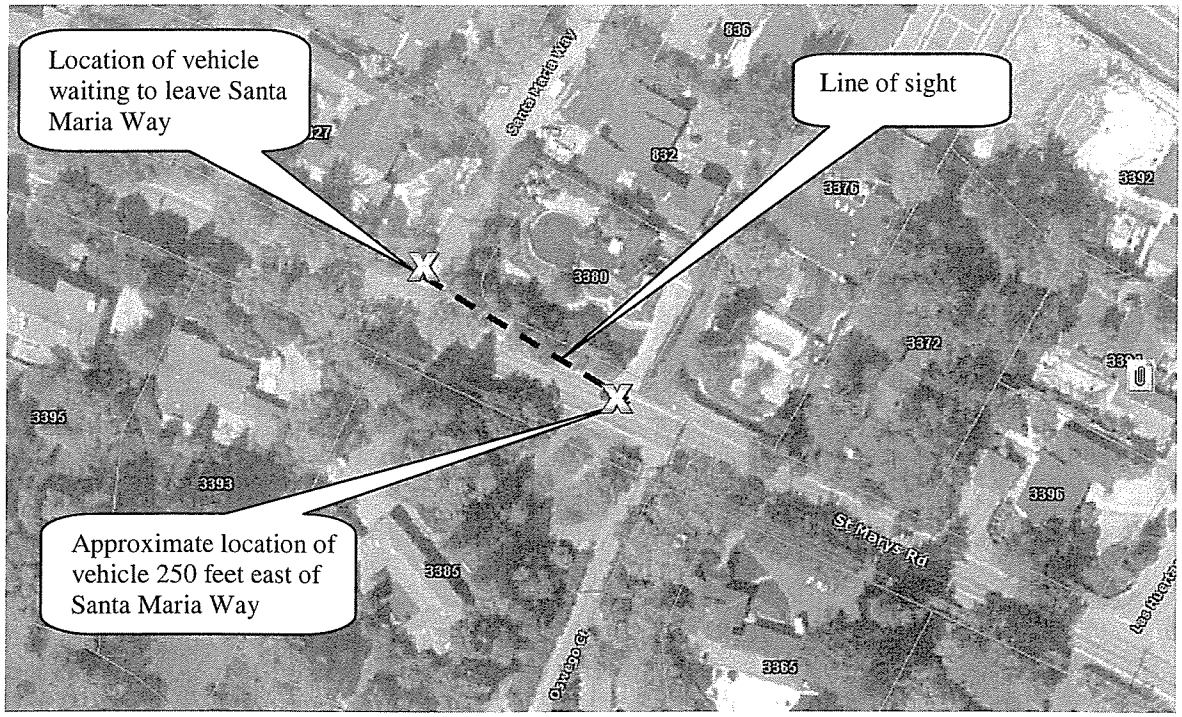
Introduction

The City of Lafayette received requests to increase the sight distance for southbound drivers on Santa Maria Way who are turning on to St. Mary's Road. On the north side of of St. Mary's Road and to the east of Santa Maria Way, the road shoulder widens out sufficiently to accommodate parked vehicles. The geometry of the intersection is such that vehicles approaching from Santa Maria Way are lower than St. Mary's Road. When vehicles park near the northeast corner of the intersection, drivers exiting Santa Maria Way have difficulty seeing approaching westbound traffic on St. Mary's Road. Solving this problem requires the removal of approximately three parking spaces in the shoulder along St. Mary's Road.

Discussion

St. Mary's Road is a two-lane arterial that accommodates approximately 6000 vehicles per day in the subject area. The posted speed limit is 35MPH; however, the 85th percentile speed is likely greater. There have been no vehicle collisions reported in this area between January 2003 and June 2007. The City's right-of-way extends beyond the edge of the paved roadway approximately 15 feet. A driveway serving 3380 St. Mary's Road is approximately 150 feet east of where a southbound vehicle would wait to turn from Santa Maria Way. At 35MPH, the stopping sight distance is 250 feet. Due to the combination of the angle of St. Mary's Road and the location of vehicles typically exiting Santa Maria Way, over 250 feet of sight distance can be created by prohibiting parking along the frontage of 3380 St. Mary's Rd.

ITEM 5.A.1



Fiscal Impact

Minimal.

Recommendation

Forward recommendation to the City Council to prohibit parking on the north side of St. Mary's Road from the east side of Santa Maria Way extending eastward to the driveway serving 3380 St. Mary's Rd.

Attachments

1. Completed Transportation Action Request form
2. Correspondence from Jenny Kallio
3. Email from Robert Mitroff

c:\users\lgreenblat\documents\leah's work files\circulation commission\staff reports\2008\santa maria wy&st marys sight dist.doc

RECEIVED
NOV 08 2007
CITY OF LAFAYETTE
ENGINEERING DEPT.

CITY OF LAFAYETTE
Transportation Action Request Form

LAFAYETTE
SETTLED 1848 — INCORPORATED 1968

Before filling out this form, read the back of this sheet. Please print. Return form to:
Engineering Services Division, City of Lafayette, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Ste. 210, Lafayette, CA 94549

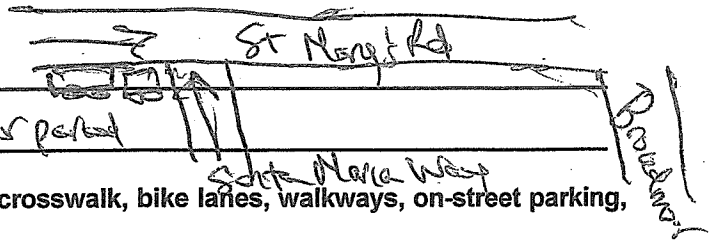
Name Robert Feren Organization (if applicable) _____

Date 11/8/07 Day Tel. (925) 480-2665 Eve. Tel. ( ) same E-mail rjferen@hotmail.com

Mailing Address 3394 Santa Maria Ct City Lafayette ZIP 94549

Location of Problem (Give street name and cross street or other locational information.) Please include a simple map showing the location.

Santa Maria Way and St Mary's Rd



Description of Problem (speed, sight distance, traffic signal, crosswalk, bike lanes, walkways, on-street parking, etc.) Attach a sketch, if needed, to clarify the problem.

Cars parked on St Mary's Rd block the view of cars coming from the left (east going west) as you exit Santa Maria Way and make it very dangerous

Suggested Change or Improvement (signs, guard rails, traffic signal, pruning, pavement marking, speed enforcement, prohibit parking, etc.)

Put a mirror on the south side of Saint Mary's Rd so Santa Maria Way so cars driving South on Santa Maria Way and turning on to St Mary's Rd can see the west bound traffic.

θ Location Map Attached θ Sketch of Problem Area Attached θ Petition Attached (if required)

FOR STAFF USE ONLY Date Received _____ Tracking Number _____

Staff Review Action: θ Administrative θ Forward for Engineer Review θ Forward to Circulation Commission

Action Taken: θ Staff Action θ Circulation Commission Action θ City Council Action

W/O Requested on: _____ Applicant Notified of Outcome: _____ Completed on: _____

Form: Revised 08/2005

October 23, 2007

RECEIVED
OCT 25 2007
CITY OF LAFAYETTE
ENGINEERING DEPT.

Aziz Aineb
Tony Coe
Steven Falk
Lee Greenblat
Mike Hubbard

City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Re: Santa Maria Way and St. Mary's Road (cross street)

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I have been a resident of Lafayette nearly all of my life, but of Santa Maria Way for almost 25 years. In the past several years, I have complained to the city about a very serious safety problem that exists on the corner of Santa Maria Way and St. Mary's Road. I have spoken and written to Mike Hubbard and Lee Greenblat about this problem in the past. The last time I complained, I was told by Chief Hubbard that he would personally scope out the problem, but I never heard back as to whether or not he did. The problem? People who park at the corner (looking left if you come up on the upslope of Santa Maria Way at St. Mary's Road) obstruct the view of oncoming traffic on St. Mary's (looking left) that one must almost completely enter St. Mary's road in order to see oncoming traffic. This is a dangerous situation! In the past, I have had to get out of my car (parking on the upslope) and physically look to see oncoming traffic, and then hurry and get in my car in order to get out. Sometimes, even huge earthmoving equipment, huge trucks, etc., will park there. I have requested that a No Parking sign be placed there, along with large boulders, so no one can park there. I have seen the boulder solution used many places in Lafayette. I often wonder if citizens just place the boulders in these places at their own expense. I have considered doing so myself, in the stealth of night. I don't know whether or not other neighbors of mine have had a similar complaint, but I have no problem with going around to them and having them sign some kind of letter or petition. I should not have to go to public meetings or before the council or any other such thing in order to resolve what is clearly a public safety issue.

I am sending this letter, by e-mail and certified, so that, in the event I am killed or maimed as a result of a crash involving getting out of my own street, then my family will have sufficient documentation while suing the city for not doing anything about this dangerous problem.

Sincerely

Jenny L. Kallio
837 Santa Maria Way
Lafayette, CA 94549

November 24, 2007

Jenny Kallio
837 Santa Maria Way
Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 283-6340

RECEIVED
DEC 07 2007
CITY OF LAFAYETTE
ENGINEERING DEPT.

Mr. Tony Coe
Engineering Services Manager
City of Lafayette
3765 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Re: Santa Maria Way at St. Mary's Road

Dear Mr. Coe:

Thank you for responding to my letter regarding the safety/traffic hazard at Santa Maria Way and St. Mary's Road. You note that you could find no record of my complaints about this problem previously. A couple of years ago, in a conversation with Chief Hubbard, I pointed out this problem. He suggested that I contact Lee Greenblat, which I did, by email. That communication did not result in any kind of response to the problem, although a "No Outlet" sign did appear near the corner soon after, even though traffic flow on Santa Maria Way was not my concern.

I appreciate that you had someone observe "conditions in the field" concerning my complaint and found it justified. I should also let you know that, by way of confirmation of this problem, a UPS truck had a collision with a vehicle traveling down St. Mary's Road a couple of months ago. The UPS driver could not see around a vehicle parked in the location that I'm writing about. We advised the driver to let her "people" know that this hazard is a problem that we had complained about previously.

I am a little concerned that you'd need my input at a nebulous "Circulation Commission" that meets at unknown times, at unknown dates, in the unknown future. I would think that the "person in the field" and the police and the traffic experts working for our fair city would have the expertise necessary to alleviate the hazardous problem I've written about, without any further input from me. However, I will look forward to being advised of the Circulation Commission meeting, which I certainly hope will be soon and prior to a major collision or injury happening at the top of my street. Meanwhile, I will provide copies of my letter, your letter, and this letter, to my equally compromised neighbors, in the hope that, whenever I am informed of a Circulation Commission meeting, they will likewise be willing to attend.

Sincerely,

Jenny L. Kallio

P. S. One of my neighbors pointed out that the street sign for Santa Maria Way is on the opposite side of the street - so people looking for this street cannot find the sign!! No one expects to find the sign on the opposite side of the street!!!!!!!! Maybe, with a "No Parking" condition at the corner, the street sign could go back to where it belongs. . . . on the corner of our street.

Greenblat, Leah

From: Mitroffs [bobandandrea@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 5:26 PM

To: Greenblat, Leah

Subject: Parking Change on St Mary's Road @ Santa Maria Way

Hi:

I saw the notice today of a proposal to prevent parking on the NE corner of this intersection. I strongly approve of this proposal. It is extremely dangerous to make a left turn onto St. Mary's from Santa Maria Way when vehicles are parked in the NE corner. One cannot see the westbound traffic until they are right on top of you. When this visual obstruction is combined with the steep grade which brings one from Santa Maria to St Mary's it makes the turn even more scary.

Thanks,

Robert Mitroff
859 Santa Maria Way

299-1440

City of Lafayette
Circulation Commission Regular Meeting
Minutes

Lafayette Community Center
Lafayette, CA

January 22, 2008
7:30 PM

1. Call to Order Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Ross, Vice Chair Hughes, Commissioners Hiden (arrived at 7:42), Holit, Poling, and Wood

Absent: Commissioner Sevilla (excused)

BPAC: Bart Carr

Staff: Ms. Leah Greenblat, Transportation Planner; Mr. Chuck DeLeuw, Consulting Traffic Engineer, Ms. Marie Pettersen, Contract Minutes Taker

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Holit moved and Commissioner Wood seconded adoption of the agenda as submitted. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. Public Comments

There was no public comment on an item not on the agenda.

5. New Business

a. Request to Address Sight Distance on the Northeast Corner of St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria

The Commission was handed out emails from Joanne and Robert Muench, Mark Pittsey, Linda Sorensen, Robert Mitroff, and two emails from Robert Feren.

Ms. Greenblat reported that the City received requests to increase the sight distance for southbound drivers turning onto St. Mary's Road from Santa Maria Way. When cars are parked near the northeast corner of the intersection, drivers exiting Santa Maria Way have difficulty seeing approaching westbound traffic on St. Mary's Road. Staff recommends to eliminate three parking spaces in the shoulder along St. Mary's Road up to the driveway of 3380 St. Mary's Road. Staff also recommends pruning on the west corner on St. Mary's Road, which can be handled by the submittal of a work request. Staff is seeking a recommendation to forward to Council prohibiting parking on the north side of St. Mary's Road from the east side of Santa Maria Way extending eastward to the driveway serving 3380 St. Mary's Road.

Vice Chair Hughes asked if staff were only recommending pruning on the west side.

Ms. Greenblat said that Mr. DeLeuw had recommended some minor pruning of younger shrubs on the east side.

Chair Ross opened the meeting to public comment on this item.

INDEXED FEB 2 6 2008

John West said that intersection has been a problem for years. Going up hill to this intersection it is hard to see to the right or left for oncoming traffic. There are lots of brakes squealing because you just can't see especially if you're making a left.

Joan West said that you just cannot see coming out of the street. She recommended some kind of blocking such as with rocks to prevent people from parking at the intersection.

Austin Feren said that his dad started the wheels turning to get something done at this intersection. This has been a problem for 15 years and it is virtually impossible to see around especially to the left. You have to pull out too far into the intersection in order to be able to see oncoming traffic. This could be alleviated with a no parking sign.

Bill Carey added that if you are making a left onto St. Mary's Road from Santa Maria Way you have to pull out onto the road and there is no time for oncoming traffic to hit their brakes.

Kathleen Daly said that teenage drivers do not have the judgement necessary to pull out safely into this intersection. This intersection is dangerous but even more so for those with less experience.

Robert Muench said they needed something more permanent such as putting rocks there so that people cannot park in those spaces. Landscapers and roofers park there when working in the area and drivers cannot see pas them.

Joanne Muench said she drives a stick shift and she has to edge into the street past the blind spot. It is difficult to maneuver and she agrees with everything that has been said.

Phil Gruttan said he agreed with everything that has been said. He would like to see a more permanent barrier. Santa Maria Way is so low in elevation from St. Mary's Road that one has to get into the center lane to see in order to be able to make a left turn.

Mark Muren said this intersection is a real hazard. It is hard to pull out safely and sight distance is an issue.

Karen Brown agreed with everything that had been said.

John Kallio said there was nearly an accident involving a UPS truck. He thanked everyone for coming out this evening and said he would like some kind of permanent barrier also.

Jennie Kallio agreed with all the comments. She is skeptical of signs doing the job as roofers park at the corner and leave their trucks there all day long. She would like a more permanent solution.

Carter Wells had nothing further to add.

Margaret Moran had nothing further to add but agreed with what had been said.

Sandra Cohen has two teenage daughters who expressed their concern with trying to make a left onto St. Mary's Road because of the visual distance issues. She pulls to the right when making a left to gain a little more vision. She agreed with what had been said.

John Pedroni said that due to the elevation changes they have to inch out to see cars coming. He wondered how much of the intersection was owned by the City and agreed with everyone.

Tanya Pedroni agreed with everyone and felt that rocks might be an answer.

Linda Bailey said hers is the first house on the right from Santa Maria Way and people park in front of her house. She said that drivers speed doing 50 mph in the 35 mph zone until they see the first sign for the school. With a stick shift, it is difficult to drive up the hill and make a left. She has called parking enforcement and appreciates everyone's effort this evening.

Chair Ross closed the public comment period on this item.

Vice Chair Hughes said he experimented at this intersection with his son driving a smaller car and parking at the northwest corner. Commissioner Hughes was driving a truck but still could not see around the smaller car. He feels this is a treacherous intersection. He would support no parking on the northwest corner especially since cars do speed on St. Mary's Road. He wondered if neighbors were using the proposed eliminated parking spaces.

Commissioner Hiden said she was amazed that there haven't been more accidents at this location. She feels that if rocks were low then cars would park on top of them. She suggested putting up an additional berm and possibly painting it red. If installing a mirror would help, then she would support that.

Commissioner Poling felt it was clear that these parking spaces should be eliminated. She would recommend trying the proposed signs and then taking additional steps if this was not working.

Commissioner Holit agreed that signs were needed to prohibit parking there and if that does not work they should consider sprinkling rocks all over the shoulder.

Commissioner Wood said that of all the streets coming onto St. Mary's Road, this was the worst. She would support staff's recommendation of no parking signs but feels this will not work. She likes the rock idea at alternate distances so that people could not get through or around them.

Mr. Carr said he prefers the sign option first as rocks or a berm could prevent bicyclists from using the area as an escape route if needed quickly.

Commissioner Holit said he would consider a 5' path for bicyclists.

Mr. Carr said that 4' would be sufficient.

Chair Ross was in favor of everything that had been said and agreed that they needed to do something.

Mr. DeLeuw recommended three signs at first, one at each end and one in the middle of the area. He would not put rocks or a berm to begin with. He suggested considering making this a tow away zone not just a no parking zone. Pruning should occur on the north side, east of the intersection. The northwest corner is a problem and suggested checking the City's right-of-way in that area. He recommended pruning or removal of vegetation at 837 Santa Maria Way. All of this should be done at the same time. He would not install a mirror at this time and concentrate on clearing the sight distance. He would not do a berm as a clear shoulder is needed for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Vice Chair Hughes asked if a tow away zone would be effective.

Mr. DeLeuw said the he felt some people are not that concerned if they get a ticket but if their car were towed, that would send a definite message.

Ms. Greenblat said that people's comments this evening indicated that cars/trucks were parked there for longer terms so there would be enough time to get these vehicles towed. People would call the non-emergency dispatch number to have the vehicles towed.

Commissioner Hiden moved and Commissioner Wood seconded approval of the staff recommendation for three tow away zone signs to be installed, with no rocks, prohibiting parking on the north side of St. Mary's Road from the east side of Santa Maria Way extending eastward to the driveway serving 3380 St. Mary's Road. Staff is directed to check into pruning on the west side at the 827 Santa Maria Way address. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Greenblat said staff would initiate pruning on the south side so that cars would be able to see the signs better. Staff will also consider adding another pole with another sign as suggested by Commissioner Hiden.

Vice Chair Hughes said it would help to see oncoming lights as cars approach St. Mary's Road up from Santa Maria Way. He feels that cleaning up both sides would negate the need for a mirror.

Mr. DeLeuw said he went there on his way to the meeting this evening and noted it was easier at night to see the lights of oncoming cars through the bushes. He feels it would be better to clean out the bushes.

Ms. Greenblat noted that mirrors are an ongoing maintenance issue as they can fog up, they get vandalized, etc. The next step in this process is for this item to go to Council. This item will not be re-noticed and recommended citizens visit the City's website to see when this will be agendized.

b. City of Lafayette 2007 Employee and Employer Parking and Transportation Survey

The Commission was handed out Commuter Information 511 Contra Costa books.

Ms. Greenblat said the 2007 Employee/Employer Parking and Transportation Survey has been completed. This was a follow-up item from Council when the Parking Task Force recommended installing meters and establishing downtown employee parking permits. The Circulation Commission forwarded a recommendation to Council stating it was not sure about employee parking permits. Council agreed to do this survey and this information will be forwarded to the Downtown Strategy and Development Committee for guidance on employee parking permits.

Some of the findings from the survey were that employers did not have much interest in dealing with parking issues. Parking is infrequently a problem for employees but is occasionally a problem for customers. Employers tend to accommodate parking needs for their employees on-site even at the expense of their customers. Most employers and employees are unaware of and do not promote or offer incentives and benefits that encourage alternatives to driving. The lack of a business licensing program severely limits the City's effectiveness in encouraging alternatives to driving alone. The City should investigate implementing transit service to serve employees living north and east of Lafayette as well as a shuttle that connects Lafayette BART to local businesses.

Commissioner Wood said that employees had to return the surveys to their employers and thus she was not surprised they did not get much of an employee response.

Commissioner Hiden said she would like to have seen the survey in a different form. She feels there are lots of reasons other than "Low population density" (page 20 of the report in the second paragraph under Commute Mode) to account for lower transit use in Lafayette. In the fourth bullet on page 30, Commissioner Hiden added "*many* shopping bags..." in that sentence.

Mr. Carr was surprised at the lack of participation from employers. This would seem to indicate that parking is not really a problem. Under Next Steps on page 32 of the report, Mr. Carr liked the recommendation of #3 to reinstate mandatory business licenses, as well as #4 establishing an employee transportation contact at all employers with more than twenty employees in the City.

Chair Ross opened the meeting to public comment on this item.

City of Lafayette Staff Report

For:	Circulation Commission
By:	Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner
Date Written:	April 1, 2008
Meeting Date:	April 7, 2008
Subject:	Request for Reconsideration of the Commission's Recommendation Regarding a Tow Away Zone at St. Mary's Rd. and Santa Maria Way

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Introduction / Discussion

At its January 22, 2008 meeting, during the course of its discussion, the Circulation Commission discussed several options to deal with parking prohibition to improve sight distance at the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way. Ultimately, the Commission recommended designating the area as a No Parking Any Time zone with a No Parking, Tow Away zone. Because the Commission had asked about the practical operation of a tow away zone, staff wanted to confirm the logistics of how a tow away zone would work with the Police Department prior to forwarding the Commission's recommendation to the City Council. In response to staff's inquiry, the Police Chief raised a number of concerns which he has included in a memo, attached. While Engineering staff does not agree with all of the points raised in the memo, we now do have some concerns about the precedent of establishing a tow away zone at this location. Staff recommends that the Commission may wish to reconsider our original recommendation of a simple No-Parking zone. Throughout Lafayette, both in residential areas and in the downtown, sight distance issues at intersections have typically been addressed by establishing No Parking Anytime zones either with signage or by red curb paint. The subject location does not appear to be sufficiently different than these other situations to warrant special treatment and in fact, the limited collision history also does not support special treatment as a first step response. In light of the concerns raised by the Chief, the Commission may want to implement the original staff recommendation to establish a No Parking Anytime zone as the first step in addressing sight distance at the subject location. If the Commission still feels the location warrants a special deterrent, such as the tow-away designation, then staff could still forward your recommendation to the City Council.

Staff has also received several pieces of correspondence from area residents, attached, regarding this matter. All of the correspondence supports taking some type of action to address the sight distance at this location. Some want the Commission's recommendation kept as-is while others support implementing an engineering solution. Staff recommends that the Commission re-agendize this matter and reconsider its recommendation of a tow-away zone in order to allow a simple "No Parking Any Time" prohibition to be implemented as a first step. Staff would also recommend asking the Council to direct the Police Department to vigorously enforce against any reported violations. Lastly, staff recommends that concerned

ITEM 9A

residents assist in monitoring the effectiveness of this first step by reporting violations to the Police Department's Non-Emergency number. Staff will return with recommendations for additional incremental measures if these initial actions prove to be insufficient.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommendation

1. Reconsider the "Tow Away" designation at a future, noticed Circulation Commission meeting.

Attachments

1. Memo from Police Chief Mike Hubbard
2. Miscellaneous correspondence

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Lafayette Police Department
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 130
Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 283-3680 Fax (925) 283-4126

LAFAYETTE
SETTLED 1848—INCORPORATED 1968

Memorandum

To: Leah Greenblat, Transportation Planner

From: Michael Hubbard, Chief of Police

Date: March 5, 2008

Re: Intersection of St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way.

Leah,

At your request, I am writing this memo to explain my concerns regarding the parking issue at St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way. First, I agree that there is a true safety issue with people parking on St. Mary's Road, adjacent to Santa Maria Way. It does pose a sight distance issue and a hazard to drivers attempting to turn from Santa Maria Way onto St. Mary's Road. I also agree that this is a serious issue about public safety and the safety of our residents. I do not agree with the proposal to make this a tow-away zone and I am vehemently opposed to that course of action. Please allow me to address the issue and explain the reason for my opinion.

As I understand the issue, our goal is to make this intersection safer for the residents on Santa Maria Way. Making the shoulder area on St. Mary's Road, adjacent to Santa Maria Way a tow-away zone does not accomplish this goal in any way. When someone parks in the area in question and a resident of Santa Maria Way comes to the intersection with the intent to turn, the tow-away zone did nothing to make the intersection safer. Should that resident or anyone else decide to call the Lafayette Police Department so that we could tow the vehicle, the intersection would not be safe for close to 30 minutes. During that time, a police officer or parking officer would be dispatched to this parking complaint. Since parking complaints are a lower priority call, it may take some time before anyone is dispatched to the scene. Once on-scene the officer would need to partially block St. Mary's Road for a period of time while the needed paperwork was completed. Parking a patrol car like this gives the officer a safety zone so they can safely tow the vehicle. It is required that we inventory a vehicle before we can have it towed and complete a tow form for the tow company. Once the tow company arrives, Santa Maria Way would be blocked for a short time while the vehicle was being put on the tow truck. Once the vehicle has been hooked up, the tow truck and the officer would be able to clear the scene. I am sure the resident who wanted to turn onto St. Mary's Road from Santa Maria Way did not wait the entire time so they could proceed safely.

ITEM 9A

The biggest problem with this proposed solution is that it reactionary and punitive and not proactive and preventative. The law certainly allows us to tow vehicles parked in areas that have been deemed a tow-away zone. The issue is that it did not solve the problem, nor did it make that intersection safer. It simply allowed us to seize a person's property that created an unsafe situation for a resident of Santa Maria Way. It is important to remember that enforcement of a statute or law does not prevent people from committing the act in question. Enforcement is a deterrent not a preventative measure.

I would propose an engineering solution for that intersection. I am not an engineer and would not be so bold as to tell someone else how to do his or her job. I have seen several things in the past that might be considered as preventative measures in this case, such as raised asphalt curbs and large decorative rocks placed in the area where parking is occurring. Both of these alternatives would *prevent* parking at this location. An engineering alterative is the only way to truly achieve our goal and prevent anyone from parking at this location. We have an obligation to the citizens of this community to provide them with as safe of an environment as possible. Based on my 21 years of law enforcement experience, I believe that an engineering solution is the only way to truly protect the residents of Santa Maria Way and only enacting a tow-away zone would be a disservice to the community.

Greenblat, Leah

From: Greenblat, Leah
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 4:01 PM
To: 'Sarah Muren'
Cc: Muren, Mark BGI SF
Subject: RE: Agenda Item #9 March 17th Circulation Commission Meeting

Thank you for your email. I will provide the Circulation Commission with a copy of your correspondence. Due to an unexpected emergency, the Commission meeting on March 17 was canceled. This item will be rescheduled for the next Commission meeting on April 7, 2008. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Leah Greenblat
Transportation Planner
City of Lafayette

From: Sarah Muren [mailto:smuren@pacbell.net]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 3:53 PM
To: Greenblat, Leah
Cc: Muren, Mark BGI SF
Subject: Agenda Item #9 March 17th Circulation Commission Meeting

Dear Ms.Greenblat,

We are unable to attend the meeting this evening but strongly support the sentiment expressed by the residents of Santa Maria Way who attended the previous meeting on the topic of the dangerous intersection at St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way when parked cars block visibility to entering traffic from Santa Maria Way.

It has been especially difficult exiting the street these past several weeks due to the work being done at the house located at the corner of St. Mary's and Santa Maria Way. I have school age children which means I am trying to exit the street at peak travel times; it is very difficult to see the cars traveling westbound on St. Mary's Road and to determine when the road is clear and safe to enter. This is a very dangerous situation. Please support our request and uphold your affirmative vote to post this area on St. Mary's as a No Parking/Tow Away zone. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark and Sarah Muren
852 Santa Maria Way

Greenblat, Leah

From: Greenblat, Leah
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 4:10 PM
To: 'Philip Grattan'
Subject: RE: Santa Maria Way/St Mary's Road

Thank you for your email. I will provide the Circulation Commission with a copy of your correspondence. Due to an unexpected emergency, the Commission meeting on March 17 was canceled. This item will be rescheduled for the next Commission meeting on April 7, 2008. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.
Leah Greenblat
Transportation Planner
City of Lafayette

-----Original Message-----
From: Philip Grattan [mailto:bamboocalifornia@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 9:11 AM
To: Greenblat, Leah
Subject: Santa Maria Way/St Mary's Road

Leah,

I have read the police chief's letter and agree with it. During our council meeting I spoke in favor of an engineered solution to the problem rather than parking/tow away signs because I was concerned the police department would be unable to aggressively enforce the tow away zone, especially since the people parking in the spot are usually workers in the area parking for a short time. By the time the police responded it's quite possibly the car would have moved to be replaced by another a short while later. I never truly understood the concerns of the person who spoke on behalf of bicyclists since they could just as easily pull off on the other corner of where Santa Maria intersects with St Mary.

I do appreciate the temporary no parking signs. Please keep us informed regarding progress on this issue.

Thank you,

Phil Grattan

Greenblat, Leah

From: Greenblat, Leah
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 4:08 PM
To: 'Linda Sorensen'
Subject: RE: Santa Maria Way/St. Mary's Rd.

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Leah Greenblat
Transportation Planner
City of Lafayette

-----Original Message-----
From: Linda Sorensen [mailto:lgsorensen@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 8:37 PM
To: Greenblat, Leah
Cc: 'Betty Wells'; 'Bill Carey'; 'Bob & Andrea Mitroff'; 'Carol Escajeda'; 'Carol Lawton'; 'Cheryl Grattan'; 'Dan Fishbein'; 'Dottie Martinez'; 'Jenny Kallio'; 'Joan West'; 'Joanne Muench'; 'Karen Brown'; 'Linda Bailey & Ron Wurgley'; 'Linda Sorensen'; 'Marge Moran'; 'Mary McGlynn'; 'Robert Feren'; 'Robert Muench'; 'Sandy Cohen'; 'Sarah Muren'; 'Shirely Callister'; 'Tanya Pedroni'
Subject: Santa Maria Way/St. Mary's Rd.

Leah - I heartily second all of Jenny Kallio's comments. Please keep us informed in a timely manner as to how/when this situation will be addressed and resolved. Thank you.

Linda Sorensen

PS: I really appreciate the temporary "no parking/towaway zone" signs as the past several weeks have been particularly difficult trying to exit our street.

-----Original Message-----
From: jennyjump2@comcast.net [mailto:jennyjump2@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 6:38 PM
To: LGreenblat@lovelafayette.org
Cc: Bill Carey; Karen Brown; Susan Callister; Sarah Muren; Mary McGlynn; Carter Wells; Linda Sorensen; Bob Mitroff; Ron Wurgley; Jack West; Marge Moran; Marty Martinez; Sandra Cohen
Subject: FW: Santa Maria Way/St. Mary's Rd.

---------- Forwarded Message: ----------
From: Jenny Kallio <jennyjump@mac.com>
To: jennyjump2@comcast.net
Subject: Santa Maria Way/St. Mary's Rd.
Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2008 01:34:45 +0000
> Dear Ms. Greenblat:
>
> I had rallied my neighbors in response to a "heads up" that I
> received about a Circulation Commission meeting on 3/17 which was
> going to re-address the St. Mary's Rd./Santa Maria Way site problem.
> After rallying people to attend, I then found out by a neighbor that
> the meeting was cancelled. Firstly, it would have been helpful to
> have been advised of this meeting well in advance of it's taking
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> any new issue. I have since obtained a copy of the Police Chief's
> letter regarding this matter. His solution, one involving

> engineering that corner to prevent parking, or placing rocks, was
> also my initial thought. At the commission meeting, I was encouraged
> that this would be the solution until Mr. Bicycle spoke, and was
> worried that cyclists would be "at issue" with rocks. Considering
> how many vehicles we are now managing in our fair city (many from non-
> citizens), it seems to me to be a little short-sighted to solve a
> potentially fatal situation in favor of the very few who actually
> take their lives in their hands and bicycle on St. Mary's Road.
> People on bikes are well aware of hazards, and must avoid them at all
> times when riding, so it would seem to me that they would notice the
> rocks and act accordingly. Also, the rocks would not be right on the
> pavement line, as far as I can see. That being said, I was happy to
> at least have the Tow-Away sign solution, and was hopeful that that
> might actually work, and I was willing to try this solution to see if
> it would be honored by the good folks. However, I, too, was cynical
> about the follow-through of enforcement by the police, knowing that
> doing so would take them away from other tasks and would be some kind
> of burden to them.. I would love to see a solution that prevents
> anyone from parking in that area altogether, and leaving the police
> to do other things. In terms of a preventative parking solution, I
> would also hope that the commission will consider the fact that, when
> Moraga Rd. is shut down for repairs in the near future, the traffic
> that will flow down St. Mary's, carrying the good folks of Moraga who
> should, by the way, be paying a nice toll to the City of Lafayette
> for the burden to our infrastructure (OK - this is ANOTHER issue),
> getting out of Santa Maria Way will be even harder, especially
> without the assurance of good visibility at all times. As always,
> thanks for the work that you do and for hearing us out on this
> matter. Please do let us know if there will be any other discussion
> of this matter or any further delay in implementing what was already
> approved regarding this problem.
> Sincerely
> Jenny Kallio
> 837 Santa Maria Way
> Lafayette, CA
> 925-283-6340

Greenblat, Leah

From: Greenblat, Leah
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 4:07 PM
To: 'jennyjump2@comcast.net'
Cc: Bill Carey; Karen Brown; Susan Callister; Sarah Muren; Mary McGlynn; Carter Wells; Linda Sorensen; Bob Mitroff; Ron Wurgley; Jack West; Marge Moran; Marty Martinez; Sandra Cohen
Subject: RE: Santa Maria Way/St. Mary's Rd.

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The Police Chief's letter on the Commission's agenda is informational only at this point. The Commission would need to decide it wanted to reconsider the matter. Staff is not recommending re-consideration at this time. If the Commission did want to reconsider the matter, then we would post a sign board to let the residents know.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Leah Greenblat
Transportation Planner
City of Lafayette

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> Sincerely
> Jenny Kallio
> 837 Santa Maria Way
> Lafayette, CA
> 925-283-6340

Greenblat, Leah

From: Greenblat, Leah
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 4:00 PM
To: 'Susan Callister'
Subject: RE: Agenda Item #9 March 17th Circulation Commission Meeting

Thank you for your email. I will provide the Circulation Commission with a copy of your correspondence. Due to an unexpected emergency, the Commission meeting on March 17 was canceled. This item will be rescheduled for the next Commission meeting on April 7, 2008. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Leah Greenblat
Transportation Planner
City of Lafayette

From: Susan Callister [mailto:susan@spcallister.com]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 2:50 PM
To: Greenblat, Leah
Subject: Agenda Item #9 March 17th Circulation Commission Meeting
Importance: High

Dear Ms.Greenblat,
I am writing on behalf of myself and my mother, Mrs. Shirley Callister, who lives at 845 Santa Maria Way. We are concerned with respect to Agenda Item #9 for this evening's Circulation Commission meeting. We believe the Commission's original finding [that there should be No Parking/Tow Away signs installed at St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way] was proper and should stand.

In fact, we have been waiting for the new signs to be installed as the intersection to this day remains as one of the most dangerous in Lafayette.

Sincerely,

Susan Price Callister
P.O. Box 1694
Lafayette, CA 94549
Phone: (925) 640-6500
Email: Susan@SPCallister.com

$70,000 of existing traffic calming program funds for the program pending receipt of the neighborhood match of $30,000. Council agreed to amend the Master Walkways Plan and add the walkways project on Stanley-Springbrook. Council agreed to the signing and striping improvements on the trail crossing at Glenside Drive. Staff had written but withdrew its report on modifying the color of the yellow crosswalk signs, as Public Works was able to find signs in the color needed. At the March 24 meeting, Council discussed the conceptual plans for a walkway on Mt. Diablo Blvd. Since staff received competing recommendations on this project, a joint meeting is scheduled for April 14.

b. Preparation for Joint City Council-Circulation Commission and BPAC Meeting on April 14, 2008

Ms. Greenblat advised that the joint meeting between the Circulation Commission, BPAC, and City Council will be April 14 at 6:30 PM. Following this meeting, Council will hold its regular meeting at 7:00 PM when Council will receive a presentation from CCCTA on a draft Lamorinda action plan. This will cover routes of regional significance in the Lamorinda area. Staff will get copies of this plan to the Commissioners. Commissioners should email Chair Ross with suggestions for discussion at the joint meeting.

Commissioner Hiden requested that the joint meeting be at least an hour in length in the future.

9. Written Communications

a. Request for Reconsideration of Commission's Recommendation Regarding Two Away Zone at St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way

The Commission discussed this item at a previous meeting, and there was discussion about how this would be implemented. Staff followed up on this and spoke with the police chief who had concerns about a tow-away zone. He feels the Commission should consider engineering solutions rather than an enforcement solution. This item is on the agenda for the Commission to decide whether they want to re-agendize this for a future meeting.

Commissioner Wood thinks this is a good idea and should be looked into. She thinks the police chief should state his position in person when this item is re-agendized.

Commissioner Hiden said she was happy with the Commission's recommendation and does not support hearing the item again. She feels the tow-away zone is a sufficient deterrent and does not feel that the police chief will actually have to deal with towing cars away.

Ms. Greenblat said the staff recommendation is to eliminate the tow-away zone portion, as it is precedent setting. If the Commission wants to retain the tow-away zone, then staff will present this to Council.

Chair Ross opened the meeting for public comment on this item.

Jenny Kallio said that no one has parked at this location since the signs were put up. People are however coming down Santa Maria and parking on the down slope on the right hand side, and there is no easement for them to park there. They may need to extend the no parking zone around the corner. The no parking signs have been very helpful.

Chair Ross closed the public comment period on this item.

Commissioner Poling said she does not support reconsideration.

Commissioner Hiden moved and Vice Chair Hughes seconded that the Commission's tow-away zone designation at St. Mary's Road and Santa Maria Way stand as recommended. The motion was approved with Commissioner Sevilla abstaining.

Ms. Greenblat said this item would now go to Council.

b. Request for Participation in May Fest from Aletha Anderson, Lafayette Senior Services Coordinator

This written communication was received and filed.

10. Adjournment

Chair Ross adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM to the regular Circulation Commission meeting on April 14, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Manzanita Room.

ATTEST:

Marie Pettersen
Contract Minutes Taker

APPROVED:

Michael Ross
Chair

Greenblat, Leah

From: Greenblat, Leah
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2008 5:49 PM
To: Buck Hughes (flatheadbuck@yahoo.com); Cindy Sevilla (friendofpets@yahoo.com); E.Poling@FehrandPeers.com; Gene Holit (ggholit@comcast.net); Leah Greenblat; Lynn Hiden; maryjanewood@kpmg.com; Michael Ross (mike@michael-ross.net)
Subject: FW: Santa Maria Way/St. Mary's Rd.

FYI I'll provide copies at tonite's meeting.

Leah Greenblat
Transportation Planner
City of Lafayette

-----Original Message-----
From: Greenblat, Leah
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2008 5:49 PM
To: 'Joan West'
Subject: RE: Santa Maria Way/St. Mary's Rd.

Thank you for your email. I will provide a copy of it to the Circulation Commission for their consideration.

Leah Greenblat
Transportation Planner
City of Lafayette

-----Original Message-----
From: Joan West [mailto:jojomegh@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2008 4:26 PM
To: Greenblat, Leah
Subject: RE: Santa Maria Way/St. Mary's Rd.

Dear Leah,
Regarding the 4/7 meeting tonight: we are unable to attend but want to let you know that we feel that an engineered barrier would be the most effective although the temporary signs/poster boards have helped quite a lot.

Regarding the proposed 40 mile speed limit on Pleasant Hill Rd, we think the traffic light at Condit has and is doing a good job and therefore, don't feel that the speed limit needs to be changed.
Thank you,
John & Joan West
3391 Santa Maria Ct.
Lafayette

-----Original Message-----
From: Greenblat, Leah [mailto:LGreenblat@ci.lafayette.ca.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 3:07 PM
To: jennyjump2@comcast.net
Cc: Bill Carey; Karen Brown; Susan Callister; Sarah Muren; Mary McGlynn; Carter Wells; Linda Sorensen; Bob Mitroff; Ron Wurgley; Jack West; Marge Moran; Marty Martinez; Sandra Cohen
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Mime-Version: 1.0

ITEM 5A #

Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

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Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Leah Greenblat=20
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No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG.
Version: 7.5.519 / Virus Database: 269.21.7/1335 - Release Date: 3/19/2008
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:54 AM